

About Those WNTC Programs

To the Editor:

I would like to take this time to reply to a letter in which I feel I have been publicly insulted. I am referring to the letter by my "colleague" Mr. David Doherty (Dave O'Bryanne) in your last issue. I don't know for sure how long Dave listened to the show on Tuesday but I believe that anyone who did listen, if only until 5 A.M., could testify to the fact that the phone calls were not getting repetitious, and that Dave's leaving the show at 2 A.M. was a bit premature from this standpoint. By 5 A.M. we were still getting intelligent phone calls from people bringing out new indications from among other "new" topics as the Rolling Stones' "Beggars Banquet" album (discussion of which did not even start until almost four in the morning.

As for the Wednesday night show. Perhaps it was not everything that the three of us (John Wolfert, Don Premo and myself) had hoped it would be and I concede that, in the final analysis, the show could have been done without. However, we did not "force the announcer off the air before the show started." Trivially speaking, the Tom Swift show did exist that evening for an hour, and Tom had his chance to insult us over the air (somehow, public insult isn't my bag--maybe I don't live right). And we got our permission from our Program Director earlier that evening. One thing that was not mentioned in any printed letter to date was the following: We tried for hours to reach Mr. Swift and Bob Emborski, our station manager. It was only when we couldn't get Bob that we asked Ralph (our PD). It is unfortunate that we couldn't reach Tom Swift until he walked into the studio; but we tried. It is unfortunate that we couldn't reach Bob; but we tried.

Which brings me to the reason that we attempted a second show in the first place. That afternoon I conducted my regular Wednesday evening show with little mention of the previous night's show, except for a five minute segment at 7 P.M. Throughout my entire show (which ran three hours) I received telephone calls on the average of one every five or ten minutes (and that is no exaggeration) to the effect of: "Is there going to be another show on Paul McCartney tonight?" or "Hey, I found this out..." I did not myself believe the listener response on the show. It is my opinion that it should not go by the opinion of the majority of the WNTC staff (a point that I contest; the station was pretty much split), but by the majority of the listeners. After all, the majority of the listenership wanted another program. As an example: one young lady (whose name I will not mention) of my acquaintance has got to be one of this town's biggest Tom Swift Fans. She wanted a repeat of the show. John, Ralph and myself felt that the show was worth the try, since listener response was bigger than for any show in my memory. One more gripe: In Mr. Emorski's letter in that same issue he states: "shows concerned with important, relevant topics will be presented in the future." Perhaps I'm paranoid, but I feel the implication that our show was irrelevant. If the topic was so irrelevant why did a radio station as prestigious as WKBW spend a good deal of air time on the topic? WBZ, Boston spent over nine hours on the topic. And one

announcer on WABC, New York was removed from the air during his show for discussing this "irrelevant" topic.

I must agree with Dave on one point: we were threatened with suspension from the ICRN if any profanity went over the air. It did not. Thank you all.

Yours truly,
Jeff Mark
WNTC